



"I believe the educational philosophy in this country is unsound," says Headmaster Joseph W. Gault. (Warren photo)

Hyde School is different

By VEN WARREN
BATH — "There is something different about Hyde School. A lot of people may suspect this is so, but they are not convinced. It is up to you boys to prove it."

Headmaster Joseph W. Gault was speaking to his students at Hyde School in relation to a football game coming up on Saturday, but his words are applicable to the overall concept of the school — Hyde School is different. Some of the differences are obvious and would be expected in an expensive, all male private school.

For instance, consider the grounds. Built around the mansion of John Sargent, Hyde, now a museum and center of the Black Sea school, is the campus of Hyde School. Hyde School covers acres of wooded land. The grounds to the main building, which was a luxurious mansion at one time, are still lush and green.

Or consider the boys. Neatly dressed in jackets and ties, with hair short enough to be considered acceptable to the most stringent of the "teen thirty" crowd, the 132 teenage boys don't even smoke — at least not if they expect to stay out of trouble. Again, different.

But the most important difference is not readily seen by the casual observer. Perhaps the boys first begin to realize it when they read the first page of the student handbook.

"PHILOSOPHY OF HYDE SCHOOL"

Hyde believes that in order for an individual to prosper in a competitive and worthwhile life, he must gauge his education by growth and not by achievement. Hyde is less concerned whether a boy succeeds or fails with given challenges than with his attitude and effort in trying to meet those challenges. Hyde considers such success and failure as simply part of the education. What he knows and how he grows from those experiences will determine the kind of life he will lead.

"A tragic error is made in education today by the belief that achievement in school will lead to well-being in life. A recent study showed that this is empty wish. Certainly some students are more capable than others in dealing with academic, athletic, and other challenges; therefore they must guard against taking their ability for granted and develop a critical attitude toward their success. On the other hand, students who seem to have less success than the average boy in school can avoid discouragement by taking the long range view. Things will ultimately balance out if he can

develop and maintain the right attitude and effort."

This is why Hyde is dedicated to the development of character. Courage, integrity, concern for others, humility and leadership must be instilled in each individual; therefore, each student is measured in terms of himself.

"Courage, Integrity, Leadership, Curiosity, Concern," is the school motto.

Finally, Hyde is dedicated to the highest standards of human excellence and leadership. You don't get something for nothing in this world. The satisfaction of high human standards means the sacrifice of blood, sweat and tears. Hyde can only help the student grow. Ultimately, the student must be an individual who is able to stand on his own right standards and challenges by himself.

Gault wrote this brief explanation of the Hyde concept for the student handbook, but he is willing — even eager — to go into more detail. "I believe the educational philosophy in this country is unsound," he said, "I think the system — for what it was trying to do before — was dead." He explained, "but today it is inadequate."

He further explains that education before recent years was a very small part of growing up, but "Society is now so complex, this is no longer adequate."

Previous generations have not worried about how something was done. They did it, then tried to explain why, he said.

"Each today don't want to live that way," Gault stated. "They want to know the reason we do things."

This is the reason behind the generation gap according to him, and he feels the generation gap is a big problem. And this is the reason behind Hyde's emphasis on growth rather than achievement.

"How many alcoholics did we make of the boy who received all the accolades in school with only half an effort and then expected to do the same thing in life?" Gault asks. "How many others gave up on themselves because they could not find anything they could succeed with in school?"

"I good grades, say, are the goal, then one student may achieve them through hard work and another through cheating. Worse than this," he continues, "kids are raised by the assumption that if they succeed with these tasks in school, they will automatically succeed in life. This comparison is usually irrelevant," he maintains.

Gault supports his conviction by pointing out the findings of the Coleman report of 1967. This study concluded that a student's achievement in life is

affected only little by teachers, schools, and programs, instead the deciding factors are found in the home, the neighborhood, and in the child's peers.

So he feels the educational system is failing," he said. "The problem is that the present system rewards achievement and not growth. It recognizes excellence of talent, not excellence of attitude and effort."

Hyde School is looking for individual growth. High personal and disciplinary standards are set — and met. These standards are maintained through the "House Council." The house council is a student, elected group who judges disciplinary offenses such as cheating, smoking, lying or cheating. Although the council consists of students, Gault says the faculty never changes the council's recommendations concerning disciplinary action.

"We have confidence in them," Gault says. "We are able to rely on their recommendations, but we feel they are more aware of what is going on than we are so we go along with them."

He said although the students at Hyde are bright and aware of what goes on around them there

is no problem with student unrest. "The students have the responsibility of governing themselves," one staff member said, "the problem is eliminated."

Academically, Hyde is primarily a college preparatory institution. Many boys who come to Hyde have not been working up to capacity. One of the goals at the school is to overcome this problem.

The school meets the problem head on by having a favorable teacher-student ratio. There is about one teacher for every ten students, and class size is between five and fifteen depending on the subject.

In addition, each teacher is assigned to handle the students' problems of about ten students. The student goes with an adult at least once a week — more often than they are special problems.

Gault feels he and the school are on the right track. Just beginning the fourth year in year, he says, "I have given the boys the challenge of setting their own high standards for this year and maintaining them. If the boys don't do it, Hyde School is a failure. But I have a great deal of confidence in them — I think they will do it."

Bailey School sessions to open

BATH — Registration for the 1969-70 sessions of Bailey Evening School will be accepted Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hyde High School.

Evening school classes are open to adult residents of Bath and the neighboring communities. In order to be eligible for public evening school classes, a person must be at least 17 years of age, and not be attending a public day school at the same time, principal David E. Smith explained.

Tuition is not charged for any course held under the auspices of the evening school, although a registration fee of \$2 is charged for driver education.

Courses offered include: basic and advanced art, arts, crafts and drawing, bookkeeping, driver education, Italian rug making, basic and advanced sewing, basic and advanced typing and wordprocessing.

The evening school schedule follows that of the Bath public schools as to vacations and no school days. The evening classes are scheduled to end the first week in March. For further information persons may call Smith evening at 433-0557.

A qualified instructor for the conversational English course for

German speaking people is available this year. Principal Smith said in order for the course to be offered, it is necessary to have at least 10 interested people sign up on Monday night.

GRACE CHURCH
BATH — Holy Eucharist services at Grace Episcopal Church will be held Sunday at 9 and 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 9 a.m. Morning prayer will be held weekdays at 5:15 p.m.

On Monday St. Mary's Guild will meet at 1:30 p.m. and on Thursday at 7 p.m. there will be a choir rehearsal.

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